

HAUNTED HOUSE FACTSHEET

Haunted houses are “amusement attractions” within the meaning of the Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Act (CARSA) and must be inspected and permitted by IDOL unless the owner/operator demonstrates that they meet all 4 of the following requirements.

For a haunted house to qualify for an exemption under CARSA, it must meet the following criteria:

1. The haunted house is owned or operated by a non-profit religious, educational or charitable institution or association;
2. The haunted house is located within a building;
3. The haunted house (structure) is subject to inspection and has been approved to operate by the state fire marshal or by any political subdivisions of the State under its building, fire, electrical, and related public safety ordinances; and
4. The haunted house itself is subject to inspection by a political subdivision of the State in accordance with Section 2-17 of the Act provided their regulations are at least as stringent as ours.

In addition to the above, all owner/operators (even those whose houses have been inspected by a local jurisdiction) must furnish to the department proof of liability insurance and demonstrate that all haunted house operators/assistants/attendants which includes volunteers:

- i) Are at least 16 years old;
- ii) Have been trained in the safe operation of the haunted house; and
- iii) *Unless they are volunteers*, have undergone the required criminal history records checks, national sex offender public registry check and are subject to a substance abuse policy which includes random drug testing.